

Appl. No. 10/776,047
Amdt. Dated 10/28/05
Reply to Office Action of 7/28/05

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A lunch box for isolating food products therein, said lunch box comprising:

a housing having a centrally disposed longitudinal axis and a generally planar top surface, said housing further having and a generally planar bottom surfaces, said housing further having a plurality of sidewalls integral with said bottom surface and extending upwardly therefrom in a substantially vertical direction;

a plurality of oppositely disposed support members secured to select ones of said plurality of sidewalls, said plurality of support members having top and bottom edges extending substantially orthogonal to the axis and substantially parallel to said select sidewalls;

a plurality of divider plates having rear surfaces removably attachable to said plurality of support members respectively, said plurality of divider plates further having front surfaces including a plurality of oppositely facing appendages selectively spaced therealong and extending outwardly therefrom at a substantially parallel direction to the axis respectively, said plurality of appendages selectively defining a plurality of slots therebetween;

an elongated divider bar being slidably positionable into corresponding ones of said plurality of slots and for defining a first plurality of cavities within said housing, said divider bar having a plurality of slots formed along a length thereof; and

a plurality of divider members including elongated bodies having a plurality of slots formed therein respectively and for being selectively engaged with said divider bar so that the first plurality of cavities can be subdivided into a second plurality of cavities within said housing, said divider bar and said plurality of divider members cooperating

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with each other for receiving and selectively maintaining a plurality of food products within the plurality of first and second cavities during transportation thereof.

2. (original) The lunch box of claim 1, wherein said plurality of divider members further have top and bottom edge portions spaced apart from each other, said plurality of divider member slots extending upwardly from said bottom edge portions and terminating generally medially between said bottom and top edge portions respectively.

3. (currently amended) The lunch box of claim 1, wherein said plurality of divider member slots extend along a substantially vertical direction so that ~~same said plurality of divider members~~ can be selectively positioned along a length of said divider bar and between said plurality of divider plates.

4. (currently amended) The lunch box of claim 1, wherein said plurality of ~~divider plate slots of said plurality of appendages~~ extend downwardly along a substantially vertical path for receiving and maintaining said plurality of divider members at corresponding vertical directions.

5. (currently amended) The lunch box of claim 1, wherein said plurality of divider members further comprise: a plurality of end portions integral with said plurality of bodies respectively and being spaced from said plurality of ~~associated slots thereof~~ formed within said plurality of bodies, said plurality of end portions defining a plurality of stop portions for preventing said plurality of divider members from transversely moving beyond said divider bar.

6. (original) The lunch box of claim 1, wherein said plurality of divider members and said plurality of divider plates and said divider bar are formed from plastic.

7. (original) The lunch box of claim 1, further comprising:
a zipper for selectively attaching said top surface to said housing; and

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a flexible handle having opposed end portions connected to said housing and for allowing a user to maintain a secure grip of said lunch box.

8. (currently amended) A lunch box for isolating food products therein, said lunch box comprising:

a housing having a centrally disposed longitudinal axis and a generally planar top surface, said housing further having a generally planar and bottom surfaces, said housing further having a plurality of sidewalls integral with said bottom surface and extending upwardly therefrom in a substantially vertical direction;

a plurality of oppositely disposed support members secured to select ones of said plurality of sidewalls, said plurality of support members having top and bottom edges extending substantially orthogonal to the axis and substantially parallel to said select sidewalls;

a plurality of divider plates having rear surfaces removably attachable to said plurality of support members respectively, said plurality of divider plates further having front surfaces including a plurality of oppositely facing appendages selectively spaced therealong and extending outwardly therefrom at a substantially parallel direction to the axis respectively, said plurality of appendages selectively defining a plurality of slots therebetween;

an elongated divider bar being slidably positionable into corresponding ones of said plurality of slots and for defining a first plurality of cavities within said housing, said divider bar having a plurality of slots formed along a length thereof; and

a plurality of divider members including elongated bodies having a plurality of slots formed therein respectively and for being selectively engaged with said divider bar so that the first plurality of cavities can be subdivided into a second plurality of cavities within said housing, said divider bar and said plurality of divider members cooperating with each other for receiving and selectively maintaining a plurality of food products within the plurality of first and second cavities during transportation thereof, said plurality of divider members further having top and bottom edge portions spaced apart from each other, said plurality of divider member slots extending upwardly from said bottom edge

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portions and terminating generally medially between said bottom and top edge portions respectively.

9. (currently amended) The lunch box of claim 8, wherein said plurality of divider member slots extend along a substantially vertical direction so that ~~same~~ said plurality of divider members can be selectively positioned along a length of said divider bar and between said plurality of divider plates.

10. (currently amended) The lunch box of claim 8, wherein said plurality of ~~divider plate slots of said plurality of appendages~~ extend downwardly along a substantially vertical path for receiving and maintaining said plurality of divider members at corresponding vertical directions.

11. (currently amended) The lunch box of claim 8, wherein said plurality of divider members further comprise: a plurality of end portions integral with said plurality of bodies respectively and being spaced from said plurality of ~~associated slots~~ formed within said plurality of bodies thereof, said plurality of end portions defining a plurality of stop portions for preventing said plurality of divider members from transversely moving beyond said divider bar.

12. (original) The lunch box of claim 8, wherein said plurality of divider members and said plurality of divider plates and said divider bar are formed from plastic.

13. (original) The lunch box of claim 8, further comprising:
a zipper for selectively attaching said top surface to said housing; and
a flexible handle having opposed end portions connected to said housing and for allowing a user to maintain a secure grip of said lunch box.

14. (currently amended) A lunch box for isolating food products therein, said lunch box comprising:

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a housing having a centrally disposed longitudinal axis and a generally planar top surface, said housing further having a generally planar and-bottom surfaces, said housing further having a plurality of sidewalls integral with said bottom surface and extending upwardly therefrom in a substantially vertical direction;

a plurality of oppositely disposed support members secured to select ones of said plurality of sidewalls, said plurality of support members having top and bottom edges extending substantially orthogonal to the axis and substantially parallel to said select sidewalls;

a plurality of divider plates having rear surfaces removably attachable to said plurality of support members respectively, said plurality of divider plates further having front surfaces including a plurality of oppositely facing appendages selectively spaced therealong and extending outwardly therefrom at a substantially parallel direction to the axis respectively, said plurality of appendages selectively defining a plurality of slots therebetween;

an elongated divider bar being slidably positionable into corresponding ones of said plurality of slots and for defining a first plurality of cavities within said housing, said divider bar having a plurality of slots formed along a length thereof; and

a plurality of divider members including elongated bodies having a plurality of slots formed therein respectively and for being selectively engaged with said divider bar so that the first plurality of cavities can be subdivided into a second plurality of cavities within said housing, said divider bar and said plurality of divider members cooperating with each other for receiving and selectively maintaining a plurality of food products within the plurality of first and second cavities during transportation thereof, said plurality of divider members further having top and bottom edge portions spaced apart from each other, said plurality of divider member slots extending upwardly from said bottom edge portions and terminating generally medially between said bottom and top edge portions respectively, said plurality of divider member slots extending along a substantially vertical direction so that ~~same~~ said plurality of divider members can be selectively positioned along a length of said divider bar and between said plurality of divider plates.

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15. (currently amended) The lunch box of claim 14, wherein said plurality of ~~divider plate slots~~ of said plurality of appendages extend downwardly along a substantially vertical path for receiving and maintaining said plurality of divider members at corresponding vertical directions.

16. (currently amended) The lunch box of claim 14, wherein said plurality of divider members further comprise: a plurality of end portions integral with said plurality of bodies respectively and being spaced from said plurality of ~~associated slots thereof~~ formed within said plurality of bodies, said plurality of end portions defining a plurality of stop portions for preventing said plurality of divider members from transversely moving beyond said divider bar.

17. (original) The lunch box of claim 14, wherein said plurality of divider members and said plurality of divider plates and said divider bar are formed from plastic.

18. (original) The lunch box of claim 14, further comprising:
a zipper for selectively attaching said top surface to said housing; and
a flexible handle having opposed end portions connected to said housing and for allowing a user to maintain a secure grip of said lunch box.